

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,  
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION  
MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2016  
WEST SAYVILLE GOLF COURSE, MEADOWEDGE  
WEST SAYVILLE, NEW YORK**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Gilbert Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Dawn Hopkins	Chair, Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Debra Kolyer	Member of the Board
Peter Leis	Trustee, Town of Islip
Arthur Leudesdorf	Trustee, Town of Southold
Terence McSweeney	Trustee, Town of Babylon
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

**ABSENT**

Kathleen Gooding	Vice Chair, Town of Shelter Island
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
Michael Rosato	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
VACANT	Member at Large

**PARKS DEPARTMENT**

Greg Dawson	Commissioner
Jim Barr	Superintendent
Barbara Rittman	Senior Clerk Typist

**GUESTS**

Honorable William Lindsay	S. C. Legislator, 8 <sup>th</sup> District
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**PUBLIC PORTION**

No members of the public were present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 17, 2015**

**A motion to approve the minutes was made by Trustee McSweeney and seconded by Trustee Leis. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.**

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Dawson welcomed all back for the first meeting of the New Year.

There was little to report legislatively. The 2016 Parks Committee was assigned. Legislator Lindsay is now the Chair, Legislator Hahn is the Vice Chair, Legislator McCaffrey is still on the Committee, Legislator Stern is now back on the Committee to replace Legislator Schneiderman, and Legislator Kennedy has replaced Legislator Cilmi.

The Smith Point CP dredging project is moving along nicely and on schedule.

Commissioner Dawson reported to Trustee Cardillo that the parts for the repair of the compostable restrooms at Indian Island CP were ordered.

Commissioner Dawson stated that there were some issues at Meschutt CP recently regarding the septic system there and the Parks Department has been working very closely with DPW to make some upgrades. He asked Jim Barr to give an update on the progress.

Jim reported that the County has been researching a new type of septic system and Meschutt CP will be the first park to use it. The building there now doesn't have a grease trap and the new system will include one. It will require a substantial amount of plumbing work and the County has allocated \$250,000 to install the new system.

The system has already been designed but without the bid for a contractor which should be decided upon within the next three weeks. The Parks Department will have their own in-house plumbers and laborers break up the concrete and re-do all of the interior plumbing. The contractor will design how it has to be installed and County employees will do the work to save tens of thousands of dollars. The goal is to have the project completed by Memorial Day weekend.

The new system will come out from the southwest corner of the building, go to the center of the roadway and have five septic tanks and one grease trap. It will then connect to a long tank containing a treatment mechanism and grills inside it. The system will continue south to a grassy area and thirty-six leaching rings will be connected there. The Beach Hut concessionaire will have the responsibility of maintaining and keeping the grease trap clean.

Jim also reported that the Parks Department is considering continued use of the temporary facility that was built at Cupsogue CP due to the fire that occurred there last year. Since the completed temporary project was such a success, it makes sense to make approximately \$800,000 in improvements on the existing facility and hold off on the new permanent facility which would cost \$4 million and include a new \$850,000 septic system.

The \$800,000 in improvements will include a new handicap access ramp which will go from the north side up onto the boardwalk and will be ADA compliant. There is an existing ADA compliant ramp leading from the boardwalk down to the water, but there is no access up to the boardwalk. This will cost approximately \$500,000 and DPW is currently working on the design for it.

There are also plans to possibly extend the existing boardwalk up top. It would go north and additional space and seating would be created there. The concessionaire would like to set up a beverage bar and build a staircase that would lead down to where his facility is. A cold storage facility down below for maintenance equipment is planned as well. Jim stressed that the patrons were very happy with the results last year and the concessionaire was satisfied with the facility as well.

There was only one issue which was long lines for the ladies restrooms at times. Consideration is being given to building another ladies room on the west side ramp. Before moving ahead with that, some changing room-only areas will be set up to see if it helps shorten the lines.

Some funds will also be re-appropriated to make repairs at the Shinnecock Marina. The bulkhead there is failing and there are sinkholes six feet wide and six feet deep. It would cost close to \$1.5 million to complete the repairs but there aren't enough funds for that so DPW is designing a repair to address the problem immediately.

Trustee White commented that the John Fritz Memorial Birdwatching Bridge project at Cupsogue was delayed because the new building planned to go there would block an overlook view. He inquired if the bridge might be

considered once again, since a permanent structure is not an issue for the near future. Commissioner Dawson stated that he will look into it because there is a beautiful view where the former facility stood.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Hopkins requested a follow-up on the Trap & Skeet Range. Commissioner Dawson reported that the contract has been signed. The contract expired on 12/31/15 and a 5 year renewal of the contract was signed on 12/31. Additional concessions were received from the concessionaire. As an additional component of the capital improvement program for the facility, the concessionaire is paying additional fees in his annual flat fee. The concessionaire has also agreed to update several reports. Commissioner Dawson stated that it is the County's decision to stay with the license agreement (not lease agreement) until such time that all legal issues have been resolved.

Chair Hopkins inquired about County preparedness for the upcoming storm. Commissioner Dawson reported that the Parks Department works closely with DPW. Parks provides drivers to DPW when heavy equipment operators are needed. All trucks are filled with gas and snow plows secured so that trucks are ready to go. Opening of the main roads are addressed first and snow clearing in the parks is secondary. A meeting of the Emergency Command Center will be held in the next twenty-four hours and all department heads, superintendents and division heads receive periodic updated weather emails from FRES as well.

## **ROUND TABLE**

Trustee Leis offered congratulations on the completion of the pump station at West Sayville.

Legislator Lindsay reported that there is a new director for the Long Island Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Her name is Kristen Jarnigan, she is very talented and currently in the process of re-vamping their website. Kristen has been working on an aggressive marketing campaign and Legislator Lindsay stated that he has already provided her with quite a bit of information about the County since she is new to the area. He added that he would like to invite Kristen to a Parks Trustee meeting in the near future. Commissioner Dawson agreed and was very appreciative of the idea because the Suffolk County Parks Department is an excellent resource to encourage patrons to visit Long Island and promote Suffolk County Parks as well.

Trustee Leudesdorf reported that there are some real estate changes in the Town of Southold that are anticipated to have an impact on the tourism economy there. Two major properties have been listed for sale. One is the Claudio's restaurant property (family-owned for over one hundred years) in Greenport, and already sold is the Soundview Inn housing complex on the North Fork.

Trustee Cardillo inquired if there has been any movement on the remediation work (restoration of wetlands) at Indian Island CP. Commissioner Dawson stated that he knows that it was funded and that there were some concerns about leaving the dredge spoils on site, which the Parks Department was not in favor of. He will look into it further and report back.

Commissioner Dawson thanked Legislator Lindsay for attending the meeting. Legislator Lindsay stated that he will attend as many meetings as possible.

Commissioner Dawson reported that legislation was passed on the drone bill several cycles ago and the permit process and regulations for the use of them in County parks needs to be completed. Two public hearings were required in order for the legislation to be drafted into law. Those two public hearings were advertised last week and are being held today. One was this morning in Riverhead and the second one will be this afternoon at 5 p.m. in the H. Lee Dennison building.

The next Parks Trustee meeting will be held at Meadowedge in West Sayville on Thursday, February 18, 2016.

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee White and was seconded by Trustee Leudesdorf. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.**